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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5119

INFO RUDKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 6272

RUFHEB/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 4098

RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 5335

RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 1436

RUDKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 6783

RUDKDA/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 6722

RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 4942

RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 1219

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8259

RUFHMU/AMCONSUL MUNICH 4485

RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 4561

RUDKRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 6677

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2333

RUDKSA/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 5349

RUDKFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1581

RUFHJA/USMISSION USBERLIN 4659

RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 3810

RUEHIA/USICA WASHDC 528

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/DOD WASHDC

RUSNAAA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

RUFDAAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

RHFRAAB/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE /INTAF/

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 12554 COMBINED SECTION

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State Dept. review completed

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E.O. 12065: GDS 12/26/87 (MEEHAN, FRANCIS J.) OR-M
 TAGS: PGDV, PEPR, PINS, PL
 SUBJECT: ISTREP NO. 46

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. DECEMBER 26 BROUGHT 2-3 INCHES OF WET SNOW TO WARSAW BUT SOMEWHAT LIGHTER SECURITY PRESENCE AND NO REPORTS OF TROUBLE IN TOWN. WARSAW RESIDENTS SPENT THE DAY RESTING OR, FLOWERS IN HAND, VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

3. DECLINING SECURITY; OLD TOWN EMPTY; SECURITY PRESENCE, REPORTED DOWN ON DECEMBER 24, THEN UP ON CHRISTMAS DAY, HAS AGAIN DECREASED DECEMBER 26. CHECKPOINTS ON SOME KEY ARTERIES ARE MANNED AT USUAL STRENGTH, BUT FEW FOOT PATROLS AND ARMORED VEHICLES ARE VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THE CENTRAL CITY. AT UJAZDOWSKIE AND PIEKNA (INTERSECTION NEAREST EMBASSY) HOWEVER, ONLY TWO SOLDIERS STAND GUARD, OCCASIONALLY STOPPING CARS. AT INTERSECTION OF CZERNIAKOWSKA AND JURIIA GAGARINA, ON ROYAL ROUTE TO WILANOW, A SINGLE APC HAS BEEN REMOVED TWO WEEKS AFTER IT FIRST APPEARED. NOW THAT COLD IS LESS SEVERE, SCENES OF SOLDIERS HUDDLED AROUND BARRIERS ARE MORE RARE. THE AUTHORITIES CLEARLY ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CHRISTMAS LULL, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO CONSERVE RESOURCES AND GIVE TROOPS HOLIDAY LEAVE.

4. IN A LATER AFTERNOON VISIT TO OLD TOWN, EMBOFF REPORTED LITTLE TRAFFIC ON SLIPPERY STREETS EXCEPT SNOWPLOWS, BUSES AND TRAMS. THE FEW PEDESTRIANS INCLUDED SEVERAL DRUNKS. PRIESTS CONDUCTING WEDDING CEREMONIES IN OLD TOWN'S CHURCHES.

5. MORE ON JARUZELSKI'S DECEMBER 24 SPEECH: WHILE THE GENERAL PLEDGED THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN SOCIALIST POLAND," AND SAID A "VALUABLE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION CAN AND WILL BE FOUND

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IN THE 100 YEAR OLD HISTORY OF THE POLISH WORKERS' MOVEMENT," HIS STATEMENT CONTAINS NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF THE PARTY. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT JARUZELSKI'S UNVEILING OF A "PROGRAM OF OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY" IS PROMISED FOR THE "NEAR FUTURE."

6. DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FOOD FROM COUNTRYSIDE: EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TRAVEL OBSTACLES STEMMING FROM MARTIAL LAW HAVE FURTHER CRIMPED THE ALREADY TIGHT FOOD SITUATION HERE. CITY RESIDENTS ACCUSTOMED TO DRIVING TO COUNTRY FARMS AND OTHER LOCATIONS OUTSIDE WARSAW TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR FOOD SUPPLIES NOW HAVE TO CONTENT WITH INTERROGATION AT CHECKPOINTS, NEWLY-REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AND ACUTE GAS SHORTAGES. APPARENTLY, MANY WOULD BE TRAVELERS HAVE SIMPLY ABANDONED THIS PRACTICE FOR THE TIME BEING, WITH OBVIOUS CONSEQUENCES. IN ADDITION, FARMERS BRINGING THEIR GOODS TO THE CITY FOR SALE HAVE PRESUMABLY MET WITH SIMILAR HINDRANCES.

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7. THE OFFICIAL POLISH PROPAGANDISTS ARE CLEARLY SENSITIVE TO POTENTIAL URBAN DESPERATION IN SECURING FOOD: FIVE MINUTES OF THE MAIN TV NEWS DECEMBER 26 WAS DEVOTED TO THE EXPECTED FOOD TRUCK ARRIVALS FROM BULGARIA AND GREECE (WITH FRUIT) AND FROM WESTERN EUROPE.

8. KATOWICE: AMCIT WHO HAD BEEN IN KATOWICE ON DECEMBER 20 AND 21 DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE IN KATOWICE AS VERY TENSE. WHAT HE CALLED "TANKS" WERE STATIONED AT ALL THE CITY'S MAIN INTERSECTIONS AND SQUARES; AND HELICOPTERS WERE SEEN PATROLLING OVER THE ROOFTOPS. PEOPLE WERE RELUCTANT TO TALK IN PUBLIC, EVEN ABOUT TRIVIALITIES. THE STORES WERE NOT AS WELL SUPPLIED AS THEY ARE IN WARSAW.

9. LODZ: SAME AMCIT WAS ALSO IN LODZ ON THE 17TH AND 18TH AND CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS STREET VIOLENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF MARTIAL LAW. PRESENTLY IT IS QUIET, AND THERE ARE FEWER SOLDIERS PATROLLING THE

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STREETS THAN IN WARSAW.

10. MEDICAL CONDITIONS: ONE OF THE UNFORESEEN REPERCUSSIONS OF THE CURRENT REGULATIONS GOVERNING MARTIAL LAW IS THE LACK OF A RELIABLE AMBULANCE SERVICE. THIS AMCIT, WHO LIVES IN POLISH APARTMENT HOUSE IN WARSAW, STATED THAT THE MORTALITY RATE WAS CLIMBING BECAUSE OF THIS. FOR POLES TO CALL FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE THEY MUST FIRST LOCATE A PATROL. IN MANY AREAS OF TOWN, THE PATROLS COVER SUCH A LARGE AREA THAT THEY PASS CERTAIN AREAS INFREQUENTLY. EVEN IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO LOCATE A PATROL, NOT ALL OF THE SOLDIERS AND MO ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO THE PROBLEM. HE REPORTED THAT ONE WOMAN IN HIS APARTMENT HOUSE TRIED TO GET HELP FOR HER SONS WHO HAD SPILLED BOILING WATER OVER THEMSELVES. EVEN THOUGH SHE LOCATED A PATROL, SHE WAS BEATEN UP BEFORE SHE COULD EXPLAIN WHY SHE WAS ON THE STREETS AFTER CURFEW AND WHY SHE NEEDED AN ANBULANCE. SHE AND HER SONS WERE NEVER TAKEN TO A HOSPITAL. RATHER, A DOCTOR WAS BROUGHT TO THE HOUSE. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE HOSPITALS WERE SO FULL THAT THEY COULD NOT TREAT ADDITIONAL SICK PEOPLE UNLESS THEY WERE SEVERELY ILL. ANOTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO IS A MEDICAL STUDENT REPORTED THAT THE HOSPITALS WERE CLEARED OF MANY OF THEIR PATIENTS JUST AFTER MARTIAL LAW WAS IMPOSED. AT THE SAME TIME, DOCTORS WERE INFORMED THAT NO ELECTIVE TREATMENT WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PRESENT. NEITHER THIS AMERICAN STUDENT NOR THE DOCTOR WHO TREATED THE WOMAN WITH THE CHILDREN EXPLAINED WHY THERE WAS SUCH A SHORTAGE OF BEDS AT THIS TIME.

11. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MEEHAN

END OF MESSAGE

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